

1/29

Practitioner's Docket No. 934-004

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Patent application
of _____ Inventor(s)
for _____ Title of invention

the specification of which is being transmitted herewith

OR

In re application of: Homann

Application No.: 10 / 771,733 Group No.: 3726
 Filed: February 4, 2004 Examiner:
 For: METHOD OF PRODUCING A JOINT BETWEEN
 A CORRUGATED TUBE AND A COUPLING

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.8(a) and 1.10*
*(When using Express Mail, the Express Mail label number is mandatory;
 Express Mail certification is optional.)*

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

MAILING

deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)

37 C.F.R. § 1.10

with sufficient postage as first class mail.

as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee"

Mailing Label No. _____ (mandatory)

TRANSMISSION

facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, (703) _____

Janet Gaffney

Signature

Janet Gaffney

(type or print name of person certifying)

Date: 7/13/04

* Only the date of filing (§ 1.6) will be the date used in a patent term adjustment calculation, although the date on any certificate of mailing or transmission under § 1.8 continues to be taken into account in determining timeliness. See § 1.703(f). Consider "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" (§ 1.10) or facsimile transmission (§ 1.6(d)) for the reply to be accorded the earliest possible filing date for patent term adjustment calculations.

NOTE: "An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the Office if filed by the applicant within any one of the following time periods:

- (1) Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d);
- (2) Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application;
- (3) Before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits; or
- (4) Before the mailing date of a first Office action after the filing of a request for continued examination under § 1.114."

37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

NOTE: "Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section." 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a).

"Under this section, information is material to patentability when it is not cumulative to information already of record or being made of record in the application, and

- (1) It establishes, by itself or in combination with other information, a prima facie case of unpatentability of a claim; or
- (2) It refutes, or is inconsistent with, a position the applicant takes in:
 - (i) Opposing an argument of unpatentability relied on by the Office, or
 - (ii) Asserting an argument of patentability.

"A prima facie case of unpatentability is established when the information compels a conclusion that a claim is unpatentable under the preponderance of evidence, burden-of-proof standard, giving each term in the claim its broadest reasonable construction consistent with the specification, and before any consideration is given to evidence which may be submitted in an attempt to establish a contrary conclusion of patentability." 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b)

"Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) each inventor named in the application;
- (2) each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application." 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c).

NOTE: The "duty as described in § 1.56 will be met so long as the information in question was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98 before issuance of the patent." Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13 -25 at 17.

WARNING: "No information disclosure statement may be filed in a provisional application." 37 C.F.R. § 1.51(d).

List of Sections Forming Part of This Information Disclosure Statement

The following sections are being submitted for this Information Disclosure Statement:

(check sections forming a part of this statement: discard unused sections and number pages consecutively)

1. Preliminary Statements
2. FORMS PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly FORM PTO-1449)
3. Statement as to Information Not Found in Patents or Publications
4. Identification of Prior Application in Which Listed Information Was Already Cited and for Which No Copies Are Submitted or Need Be Submitted
5. Cumulative Patents or Publications

6. Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying This Statement
7. Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items
 - 7A. EPO Search Report
 - 7B. English Language Version of EPO Search Report
8. Translation(s) of Non-English Language Documents
9. Concise Explanation of English Language Listed Information Items (Optional)
10. Identification of Person(s) Making This Information Disclosure Statement

(complete the following, if appropriate)

Sections , respectively, have been continued on ADDED PAGE(S).

NOTE: "Once the minimum requirements are met, the examiner has an obligation to consider the information."
Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 37).

Section 1. Preliminary statements

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information, of which they are aware that they believe may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h)), or that no other material information exists.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of

JUL 15 2004

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary.)

She

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Application Number	10/771,733
Filing Date	Feb. 4, 2004
First Named Inventor	Jorn Homann
Art Unit	3726
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	934-004

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ² Number ³ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		FR 2 641 842	07/1990	Draka Polva BV	
		EP 0 775 865	05/1997	Brugg Rohrsys. GmbH	

Examiner Signature _____ **Date Considered** _____

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Section 6. Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying This Statement

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2) requires that any information disclosure statement filed under § 1.97 shall include:
"A legible copy of:

- (i) Each U.S. patent application publication and U.S. and foreign patent;**
- (ii) Each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed;**
- (iii) For each cited pending U.S. application, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application, or that portion of the application which caused it to be listed including any claims directed to that portion; and**
- (iv) All other information or that portion which caused it to be listed; . . . "**

Legible copies of all items listed in Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO-1449) accompany this information statement.

(complete the following, if applicable)

- Exception(s) to above:**
 - Items in prior application, from which an earlier filing date is claimed for this application, as identified in Section 4.**
 - Cumulative patents or publications identified in Section 5.**

Section 7. Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items

NOTE: "A concise explanation of the relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information of each patent, publication, or other information listed that is not in the English language shall be included in any information disclosure statement filed under § 1.97. The concise explanation may be either separate from the specification or incorporated therein." 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3).

NOTE: "[T]he explanation required is limited to the relevance as understood by the individual designated in § 1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information at the time the information is submitted to the Office." Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25 at 14.

NOTE: "Where the information listed is not in the English language, but was cited in a search report by a foreign patent officer, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance is satisfied by submitting an English language version of the search report." Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 14.

NOTE: "The concise explanation requirement for non-English language information may be met by submission of an English language version of the search report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office." Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 20.

WARNING: "The requirement in § 1.98(a)(3) for a concise explanation of non-English language information would not be satisfied by a statement that a reference was cited in the prosecution of a parent application." Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25 at 20 (emphasis added).

The European Patent Office search report explains the degree of relevance of the non-English language information. The categories on the search report are believed to coincide with the following:

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone	T : theory or principle underlying the invention
Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category	E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date
A : technological background	D : document cited in the application
O : non-written disclosure	I : document cited for other reasons
P : intermediate document	& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document

Section 7A. Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items—EPO Search Report

The relevance with respect to the following citations listed on Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO-1449):

All items listed on PTO/SB/08A.

is submitted on the basis of the accompanying:

(check the appropriate item)

- EPO search report that is in the English language,
- EPO search report that is not in the English language and that is accompanied also by an English language version of the EPO search report,

that issued on the corresponding European patent application.

Section 7B. Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items—English Language Version of EPO Search Report

See Form 6-2.2